REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-23, 25-45, 49 and 50 are pending in the present application. Claims 24 and 46-48 have been canceled, and claims 21, 25, 26, 35, 49 and 50 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 21-23, 28-34, 37-41 and 46-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nakane et al.; and claims 24-27, 35, 36 and 42-45 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, independent claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in dependent claim 24. Independent claims 49 and 50 have been amended in a similar manner. Further, claims 46-48 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) noted in the Office Action is moot and the pending claims are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David Bilodeau Reg. No. 42,325 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

EHC/DAB:tm

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies

to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional

fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 13, 2007   Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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